

# WIDOW HELD AS HALL-MILLS SLAYER

## Woman Is Jailed, Accused of Killing Rector and Singer

(Continued from Page 2)

when he was awakened from his sleep and a bathrobe.

His hair rumpled, his face a tortured picture of horror and grief, Stevens went from one officer to another, wringing his hands and denying his sister's guilt.

She was so good, he pleaded. So good to him, to the poor, to every n. They must not take her, they could not, he cried. She was all he had.

### Frantic With Grief

Up the stairs and down, his slippered feet dragging on the thickly cushioned stairs, Willie Stevens ran about like a man gone mad.

Please, might he see his sister. Just for a moment! He would do anything they asked him then. He would go to jail. He would take her place. But only let him see her, hear her voice, tell her he loved her.

But Willie Stevens was with Frances Stevens Hall that night of the murder and police were taking no chances for a word between them, now that the sister was under arrest. She had ever completely dominated him and, if guilty, could seal his lips or instruct him what to say.

### Tearful Rarewell

It was scarcely any time before Mrs. Hall stepped from her room, dressed for the street, and told the waiting officers she was ready to accompany them.

As she neared the entrance, they allowed her to bid farewell to Willie. After all, he was her brother.

As officers remained within earshot, the two spoke, or rather Mrs. Hall did, for sobs choked the man and he was all but speechless.

At her touch, however, he was partially calmed. Gently she laid her hand on his shoulder.

"Don't worry, Willie," she said. "I'll be back."

The woman was hurried to state police headquarters, accompanied by her lawyer, for whom she had sent shortly after the police arrived. Attorney Watson had advised her that there was nothing for her to do but to accompany the officers. Before Watson scanned the warrant, which was sworn out by Prosecutor Bergen of Somerset county, Mrs. Hall read it.

### Failed to Move Her

Bergen announced today that no details would be revealed as to the developments of the recent investigation which led up to the formal murder charge. He would not say if police had found that Mrs. Hall had an aid in the crime with which she is charged nor if Willie Stevens would be arrested.

From another source, however,

it was indicated that Stevens might be taken into custody today.

During the hours in which she was grilled by police Mrs. Hall faced them unflinchingly. Afterwards they admitted that they gained no admission from her.

Before the warrant for her arrest was sworn out yesterday afternoon there was a conference between state police, Middlesex county authorities and Supreme Court Justice Charles W. Parker at Morristown, N. J.

## Vindictive Hand Seen in Murders

(Continued from Page 3)

church and looked all around for his wife in the hope that she had been staying late for choir practice or something of the sort. But he found no trace of her, so he returned home and did not sleep for the rest of the night.

### Lured to Death

Two days later the bodies were found, and detectives and reporters swarmed to the lonely Phillips farm in the hope of unraveling one of the most baffling murders in criminal history. At the time the bodies were discovered it was remembered that Dr. Hall also had received a telephone call on September 14.

Detectives who were investigating the case assumed that the pair had been lured to some lonely spot near Red Bank, N. J., killed there and carried in an automobile to the Phillips farm.

Jealousy at first was the supposed motive for the crime. The relations of Dr. Hall and Mrs. Mills were well known. To strengthen evidence that the murder was one of passion, it was recollected that Dr. Hall's eyes were closed when the bodies were found, while Mrs. Mills's were wide open—stark and staring with the horror of what they had seen just before the glimmer of recognition died out of them forever.

A dead person's eyes naturally remain open, physicians testified, and the fact that Dr. Hall's were closed showed that some one had tampered with his body out of tenderness, probably after he was killed.

Subsequent testimony developed that some autoist near Red Bank on the night the murder supposedly took place had heard a woman scream agitatedly:—

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Mrs. Frances Hall Rev. E. H. Hall

"Help, murder! Mercy, don't kill me!"

Then the autoists heard shots—they could not remember how many. They placed the time of the shooting at 10.30 p. m. and said that they waited in the road for a long time to see what else would happen in that eerie spot.

About 1.20 a. m. they reported that an automobile with headlights glaring raced past them at high speed. Half an hour later the same car returned and this time the lights were out.

The car was traveling in the direction of the Phillips farm and the autoists testified that two men and a woman rode in it.

Later the gun with which the murder is believed to have been committed was found. The weapon still is in the possession of the authorities.

Hundreds of persons were questioned in a grand jury investigation, and direct accusations were leveled at a dozen persons, all of whom presented perfect alibis.

Mr. Mills was suspected for a time, because he had been alone all during the evening, but he cleared himself because there was nothing to be held against him except the very slightest of suspicion.

"Crazy" Willie Stevens, Mrs. Hall's brother, an expert pistol shot and one who might quite possibly have

been the one who dispatched Dr. Hall and Mrs. Mills so neatly, also was suspected, but for some reason the case against him was never pressed to the utmost.

Mrs. Hall, a woman of towering intellect, next was suspected and cleared herself largely as a result of an interview with twenty reporters who asked her 297 questions in one hour. Of these, she answered 296 without the slightest hesitation.

She would not admit that she had returned home late on the night of the murder and she denied she was the woman who was seen on the Phillips farm, taking one last look at the two bodies lying there stark and cold.

She did not blanch at the vehement accusations of Mrs. Jane Gibson, the "Pig Woman," who

kept a pig farm near the Phillips farm. Mrs. Gibson told authorities that she witnessed the entire murder and that Mrs. Hall and some men committed the crime.

"Mrs. Hall is lying," Mrs. Gibson told a grand jury. "She did the killing."

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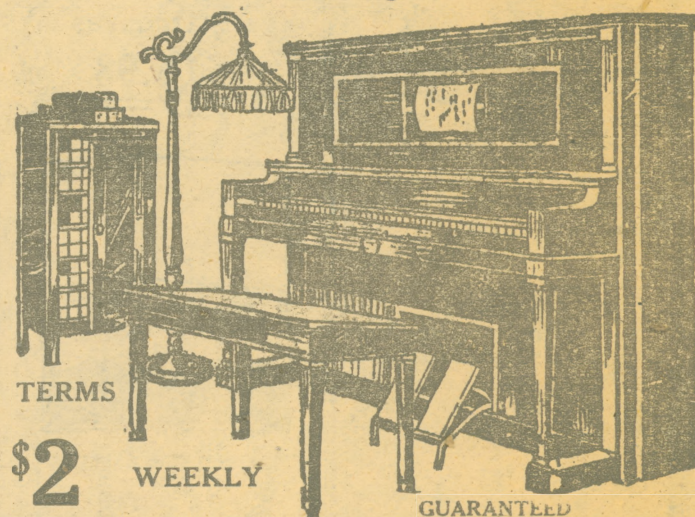
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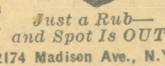
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